under SUME women beneficiaries are eligible to a subsidy ceiling of Rs. 5,000 as compared to Rs. 4,000 available to genera! category beneficiaries.

(c) The scheme for Women Develop ment Corporation was formulated in 1986-87. These Corporations are expected ta play catalytic role in identifying women entrepreunei s, providing technical consul tancy services, facilitating availability of credits, promoting marketing of products ami strengthening Women's Cooperatives, arranging training facilities etc. So far 16 Women Development Corporations have been set up in the States of Andhra Pra desh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra; Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and U.T. of Chandigarh. No such Corporation has been set up in Delhi. This scheme has been transferred to States with effect from 1992-93 as per decision of the National Development Council.

(d) and (e) There is already reservation of 15% and $7^{1/2}$% of jobs in *the* Centra! services and Public sector undertakings for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively. Women belonging to these communities are deserving the benefit from this reservation.

Shift in the Objective Set Out in the Fire Year Plans

1352. SHRI PARAMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a shift in the objectives set out in various Five Year Plans ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PRO-GRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : fa) to (c) The basic objectives of Five Year Plans have been growth, modernisation, self reliance and social justice. Relative emphasis on these had varied in the Five Year Plans with the changes in economic situations and the requirements of the country.

Regional Imbulance in the Country

1353.SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRA-KANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the problem of regional imbalance in the country ;

(b) if so, what are the highlights of the assessment;

(c) what has been the impact of Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plans in narrowing down, regional imbalance; and

(d) what strategy has been adopted by Government in 4he Eighth Five Year Plan for balanced regional development ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PRO-GRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANGO) : (a) to (d) Development of an area and allocation of funds for this purpose is primarily the responsibiliiy of the -concerned State Government. However the Cnetral Govern-ment helps 'the 'States in overcoming the problems of regional imbalances by pro-grammes such as Hill Area Development Programme. Drought Prone Area Pro-gramme etc.,in addition to providing weightage for backwardness in the formula used for resources transfer which has been modified for the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Growth Rate in the Country

1354. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRA-KANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be .pleased to state :

(a) what is the target growth rate during the sixth, seventh and the Annual Plans 1990-91, 199142 and 199243;

(b) what is the growth rate realised during the above plans ;

(c) what are the reasons for low growth rates during recent years ; and

(d) what steps are being taken ' by Government to accelerate the growth rate ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PRO-GRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI